



Michigan  
*Office of the Auditor General*  
**REPORT SUMMARY**

*Performance Audit*

*Prisoner Education Program*

*Department of Corrections*

Report Number:  
47-310-03

Released:  
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*The prisoner education program provides educational opportunities for prisoners to take responsibility for developing their academic, work, and social competencies and to assist them to become contributing, positive members of the prison community while incarcerated and productive members of their communities upon release from prison. Educational programs are offered at 41 correctional facilities and at 5 camps.*

***Audit Objective:***

To assess the effectiveness of the Department's administration of the prisoner education program.

***Audit Conclusion:***

We concluded that the Department was generally effective in its administration of the prisoner education program.

***Reportable Conditions:***

The Department needs to improve its coordination and Statewide implementation of the best practices used by various facilities to increase prisoners' basic reading, mathematics, writing, and critical thinking skills to a minimum of the general educational development (GED) level (Finding 1).

The facilities had not maintained complete prisoner education files and had not transferred prisoner education files with the prisoners in a timely manner (Finding 2).

The Department had not developed performance indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of the prisoner education program (Finding 3).

The Department had not provided pre-release training to all prisoners prior to their release (Finding 4).

The Department had not developed sufficient policies and procedures to standardize educational programs at the correctional facilities (Finding 5).

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***Audit Objective:***

To assess the efficiency of the Department's operation of the prisoner education program.

***Audit Conclusion:***

We concluded that the Department was moderately efficient in its operation of the prisoner education program.

**Reportable Conditions:**

The Department had not identified the educational processes at facilities that more efficiently used prisoner education resources and had not replicated such processes among all facilities with educational programs (Finding 6).

The Department needs to improve its federal grant request procedures to maximize its receipt of available federal funds (Finding 7).

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**Agency Response:**

Our audit report contains 7 findings and 7 corresponding recommendations. The Department's preliminary response indicated that it agrees with 6 and partially agrees with 1 of the recommendations.

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A copy of the full report can be  
obtained by calling 517.334.8050  
or by visiting our Web site at:  
<http://audgen.michigan.gov>



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